UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/618,919	07/14/2003	Aaron Cornelius	03797.00558	7973

28319   7590   09/11/2006

BANNER & WITCOFF LTD.,
ATTORNEYS FOR CLIENT NOS. 003797 & 013797
1001 G STREET , N.W.
SUITE 1100
WASHINGTON, DC 20001-4597

EXAMINER
CHOU, ANDREW Y

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2192	

DATE MAILED: 09/11/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

PTO-90C (Rev. 10/03)

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE <u>3</u> MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.
- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
  Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on *14 July 2003*.

2a)☐ This action is **FINAL**.   2b)☒ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) *1-30* is/are pending in the application.

    4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) *1-30* is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☒ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a)☒ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

    Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

    Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

    a)☐ All   b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

      1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

      2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

      3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

    * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1)☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

2)☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

3)☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.

4)☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.

5)☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)

6)☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

1.   Claims 1-30 have been examined. Claims 1, 18, 24, 29, and 30 are the

independent claims. The priority date recognized for this application is

07/14/2003.

Oath/Declaration

2.   The Office acknowledges receipt of a properly signed oath/declaration

filed on 07/14/2003.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

3.   The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35

U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this

Office action:

> A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –
>
> (b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

4.   Claims 1-30 are rejected under 35 U.S.C 102(b) as being anticipated by

Okita et al. US 6,225,998 B1 (hereinafter Okita).

Claim 1:

Okita discloses a method of alerting a user to configuration errors of shapes

representing software artifacts and displayed on a visual design surface, the

method comprising:

(a) displaying an icon next to a shape to represent at least one configuration

error associated with the shape (see for example column 15, lines 48-66, FIG. 5,

item 504, and related text); and

(b) in response to a user selecting the icon, displaying at least one proposed

solution to a configuration error (see for example column 7, lines 27-31, column

15, lines 48-66)).

Claim 2:

Okita further discloses the method of claim 1, further including:

(c) comparing shape configuration parameters of the shape to configuration

parameter rules (see for example column 5, lines 41-51).

Claim 3:

Okita further discloses the method of claim 2, wherein the configuration

parameter rules are selected based on a context in which the shape is being

used (see for example column 5, lines 26-41).

Claim 4:

Okita further discloses the method of claim 2, wherein (c) is performed after (a)

and further including:

(d) removing the icon when the configuration error no longer exists (see for

example column 15, lines 48-66).

Claim 5:

Okita further discloses the method of claim 2, wherein (c) is repeated periodically

(see for example column 5, lines 41-51).

Claim 6:

Okita further discloses the method of claim 5, wherein (c) is repeated when at least one configuration parameter of the shape changes (see for example column 5, lines 41-51).

Claim 7:

Okita further discloses the method of claim 6, wherein (c) is repeated when at least one configuration parameter of a shape other than the shape in (a) changes (see for example column 5, lines 41-51).

Claim 8:

Okita further discloses the method of claim 1, wherein the at least one proposed solution comprises a dialog box (see for example column 15, lines 48-66).

Claim 9:

Okita further discloses the method of claim 8, wherein the dialog box prompts a user to initialize a variable (see for example column 15, lines 48-66).

Claim 10:

Okita further discloses the method of claim 8, wherein the dialog box prompts a user to set a configuration parameter (see for example column 15, lines 48-66).

Claim 11:

Okita further discloses the method of claim 1, wherein the at least one proposed solution comprises a wizard (see for example FIG. 3, item 302, and related text)

Claim 12:

Okita further discloses the method of claim 1, wherein the at least one proposed solution comprises creating a new design element (see for example column 5 line 57- column 6, line 4).

Claim 13:

Okita further discloses the method of claim 1, wherein the at least one proposed

solution comprises adding a shape (see for example column 6, lines 58-65).

Claim 14:

Okita further discloses the method of claim 1, wherein the at least one

configuration error comprises a necessary shape that is not connected to the

shape in (a) (see for example column 15, lines 48-66).

Claim 15:

Okita further discloses the method of claim 1, wherein the at least one

configuration error comprises configuration parameters set in an inconsistent

manner (see for example column 15, lines 48-66).

Claim 16:

Okita further discloses the method of claim 15, wherein the inconsistent

configuration parameters are configuration parameters of the same shape (see

for example column 15, lines 48-66).

Claim 17:

Okita further discloses the method of claim 15, wherein the inconsistent

configuration parameters are configuration parameters of at least two shapes

(see for example column 15, lines 2- 14).

Claim 18:

Okita discloses a method of alerting a user of configuration errors of shapes

representing software artifacts and displayed on a visual design surface, the

method comprising:

(a) displaying an icon next to a container shape to represent at least one

configuration error with respect to a shape contained within the container shape

(see for example column 15, lines 48-66, FIG. 5, item 504, and related text); and

(b) in response to a user selecting the icon, displaying at least one proposed

solution to the configuration error (see for example column 7, lines 27-31, column

15, lines 48-66).

Claim 19:

Okita further discloses the method of claim 18, further including:

(c) expanding the container shape to display at least the shape contained within

the container shape (see for example column 15, lines 23-32); and

(d) displaying the icon next to a shape contained within the container shape and

that contains the at least one configuration error (see for example column 15,

lines 48-66).

Claim 20:

Okita further discloses the method of claim 18, wherein the at least one

configuration error comprises a necessary shape that is not connected to the

shape contained within the container shape (see for example column 15 lines 48-

66).

Claim 21:

Okita further discloses the method of claim 18, wherein the at least one

configuration error comprises configuration parameters set in an inconsistent

manner (see for example column 15, lines 48-66).

Claim 22:

Okita further discloses the method of claim 21, wherein the inconsistent

configuration parameters are configuration parameters of the same shape (see

for example column 11, lines 53-61).

Claim 23:

Okita further discloses the method of claim 21, wherein the inconsistent

configuration parameters are configuration parameters of at least two shapes

(see for example column 11, lines 53-61).

Claim 24:

Okita discloses a method of alerting a user of configuration errors of shapes

representing software artifacts and displayed on a visual design surface, the

method comprising:

(a) comparing shape configuration parameters of a shape to configuration

parameter rules to identify configuration errors (see for example column 15, lines

48-64);

(b) determining a common error that causes the identified configuration errors

(see for example column 15, lines 48-64);

(c) displaying an icon next to a shape to represent the configuration errors (see

for example column 15, lines 48-64, FIG. 5, item 504, and related text); and

(d) in response to a user selecting the icon, displaying at least one proposed

solution to the common error (see for example column 15, lines 48-64).

Claim 25:

Okita further discloses the method of claim 24, wherein the at least one proposed

solution comprises setting a configuration parameter (see for example column 5,

lines 26-41).

Claim 26:

Okita further discloses the method of claim 24, wherein the at least one proposed

solution comprises creating a new design element (see for example column 5

line 57- column 6, line 4).

Claim 27:

Okita further discloses the method of claim 24, wherein the at least one proposed

solution comprises adding a shape (see for example column 6, lines 58-65).

Claim 28:

Okita further discloses the method of claim 24, wherein the common error

comprises a necessary shape that is not connected to the shape in (a) (see for

example column 15, lines 48-66).

Claim 29:

Okita discloses in a computer system (see for example FIG. 1, and related text)

having a graphical user interface including a display and a user interface

selection device, a method of indicating configuration errors of elements

displayed on a visual design surface and representing software artifacts, the

method comprising:

(a) displaying a plurality of the elements on the design surface (see for example

FIG. 4, and related text);

(b) displaying an icon next to an element to identify a configuration error

associated with the element (see for example column 15, lines 48-66); and

(c) in response to a command from the interface selection device, displaying at

least one proposed solution to the configuration error (see for example column

15, lines 48-66).

Claim 30:

Okita discloses a computer readable medium (see for example FIG. 1, and

related text) containing computer executable instructions for causing a computer

system to perform the steps comprising:

(a) displaying on a design surface a plurality of shapes representing software

artifacts (see for example FIG. 4, and related text);

(b) displaying an icon next to a shape to represent at least one configuration

error associated with the shape (see for example FIG. 5, item 504, and related

text); and

(c) in response to a user selecting the icon, displaying at least one proposed

solution to a configuration error (see for example column 15, lines 48-64).

Conclusion

5.   The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to

applicant's disclosure.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from

the examiner should be directed to Andrew Y. Chou whose telephone number is

(571) 272-6829. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday, 8:00

am – 4:30 pm. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful,

the examiner's supervisor, Tuan Q. Dam, can be reached on (571) 272-3695.

The fax phone number for the organization where this application or

proceeding is assigned is (571) 273 8300.

Any inquiry of a general nature of relating to the status of this application

or proceeding should be directed tot eh TC 2100 Group receptionist whose

telephone number is (571) 272 2100.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from

the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information

for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public

PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private

PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-

direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR

system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll

free).

AYC

TUAN DAM
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER